

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 INRE-00 /004 W

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O R 271240Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5960

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USDEL ALEXANDRIA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10844

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN PFOR, XF, EG, IS

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI

1. SUMMARY. GROWING CONCERN OVER REPERCUSSIONS OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT FOR LEBANON, CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT SADAT IN PRO-EGYPTIAN PAPERS, AND BITTER CRITICISM OF EGYPT IN PRO-NASSERITE, PRO-IRAQI, AND PRO-SOVIET PAPERS ARE MAIN THEMES OF PRESS REACTION TO CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI. END SUMMARY.

2. DEMONSTRATING CONCERN FOR EFFECTS OF NEW AGREEMENT ON LEBANON, CHIEF EDITOR MICHEL ABU JAWDEH OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" WRITES: "WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN LEBANON IF EGYPT AND ISRAEL REACH AGREEMENT..." MANY PEOPLE EXPECT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. THEY REASON THAT REJECTIONISTS WILL ACT IN LEBANON TO... EMBARRASS EGYPT ON ONE HAND AND GET SYRIA TO ABANDON ITS RESERVE ON ANOTHER.... IF ANYTHING DOES HAPPEN, WE WILL BE MERELY UNCLASSIFIED

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BATTLEGROUND, NOT DIRECT PARTY. IN LIGHT OF RECENT

EVENTS IN LEBANON, IT WILL TAKE NEUTRAL, UNBIASED LEBANESE REGIME TO CONTROL AND CONTAIN ANY ARAB CHALLENGES PLAYED OUT IN LEBANESE ARENA ... WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN VIOLENT STRUGGLE WITH REJECTIONISTS."

3. DEFENDING PRESIDENT SADAT, "AS-SAYYAD" CHIEF EDITOR RAFIQ KHURI WRITES IN SISTER PUBLICATION, LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR": "PRESIDENT SADAT IS NEGOTIATING WITH DR. KISSINGER IN NAME OF MOST OF HIS FELLOW ARAB LEADERS. AS CONSEQUENCE, ALEXANDRIA NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BE ABOUT SINAI ALONE, BUT ALSO ABOUT GOLAN AND WEST BANK.... ISRAEL CAN CHOOSE WAR, BUT ONLY TO POSTPONE SETTLEMENT. ARABS, ON OTHER HAND, CAN IMPOSE SETTLEMENT BY THREATENING WAR AT TIME WHEN BOTH SUPERPOWERS WANT PEACE. THIS IS SECRET BEHIND STRENGTH OF SADAT, AS WELL AS SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS."

4. IN FIRST OPEN ATTACK ON CURRENT PEACE MOVES BY PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA" SINCE AUGUST 21, COLUMNIST SUHAYL TAWILA WRITES: "ESSENCE OF AGREEMENT IS POLITICAL, AND EGYPT HAS MADE CONCESSIONS BEYOND THOSE OF LAST UNSUCCESSFUL ROUND.... AGREEMENT ISOLATES EGYPT FROM ARAB CAUSE, CONSECRATES ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SINAI AND OTHER ARAB LANDS, AND INTRODUCES ANOTHER, MORE DANGEROUS OCCUPATION -- THAT OF AMERICA -- TO THREATEN ARAB REGION AS A WHOLE. THIS AGREEMENT IS TRULY A CONSPIRACY ... AND SHOULD BE OPPOSED BY ALL ARAB REVOLUTIONARY FORCES."

5. IN LATEST ATTACK ON PRESIDENT SADAT IN LEFTIST, PRO-NASSERITE "AS-SAFIR", PUBLISHER AND CHIEF EDITOR TALAL SALMAN WRITES: "SADAT'S EGYPT HAS NOT BEEN SATISFIED WITH WITHDRAWING FROM STRUGGLE FOR BETTER ARAB FUTURE AND EFFECTING A RECONCILIATION WITH IMPERIALISM, BUT HAS ... BEGUN TO PLOT WITH ENEMIES OF THIS STRUGGLE.... SEPARATE, PARTIAL, AND INTERIM AGREEMENT NOW STANDS REVEALED AS GENUINE CONSPIRACY AGAINST EVERYTHING ARABS HAVE ACHIEVED IN THEIR SIXTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE. EVERY ARAB MUST WORK TO FOIL IT."

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6. IN PARTICULARLY SARCASTIC ATTACK ON PRESIDENT SADAT, COLUMNIST MUHAMMAD YUSUF WRITES IN PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT": "WHY DOESN'T PRESIDENT SADAT APPEAR ON TV AND TELL EGYPTIAN PEOPLE THAT EGYPT WILL WORK NOT TO HAVE ISRAEL EXPELLED DURING COMING UNGA SESSION, THAT EGYPT WILL LIFT ITS ECONOMIC BLOCKAGE...? EGYPTIAN REGIME IS PROBABLY WAITING TO GIVE EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN MEDIA TIME TO BRAINWASH PEOPLE AND TURN DEFEAT INTO VICTORY, BUT PEOPLE ARE NOW

ENLIGHTENED ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN  
VICTORY AND DEFEAT AND BETWEEN PATRIOTISM AND TREASON."  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AGREEMENTS, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION - NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PFOR, XF, EG, IS  
**To:** USIA STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006